



USAID | MACEDONIA
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USAID marks the closing of the Secondary Education Activity

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Secondary Education Activity (SEA) held its Closing ceremony on Friday, August 29, 2008 at 11:00 am, formally ending project implementation and highlighting project successes.

After five years of implementation, SEA leaves behind a strong legacy of human resources: 200 teacher mentors and 2,800 teachers trained and empowered to sustain and improve upon innovative classroom instruction and formative student assessment; 450 school directors trained and certified in school management; 27 trainers and 1,100 school board members trained in school governance, and MASSUM, the national vocational student organization with over 3,000 members. For students, SEA established 31 Virtual Firms and 59 Real Firms in 71 schools, as well as one Career Development Center in each of these 71 schools.

"The Secondary Education Activity started in 2003 with the goal of better preparing Macedonian youth for employment," stated USAID Mission Director Michael Fritz. "SEA helped create schools equipped to provide real-life business experiences to students as well as a rich collection of data, research and analysis that will allow the Ministry of Education and Science to make evidenced-based decisions."

The ceremony took place at the Hotel Kontinental in Skopje. Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Pero Stojanovski and USAID Democracy, local governance and Education Office Director Dwaine Lee both gave speeches.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth over \$20 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>